

Punakha Dromchoe Festival



Dates February 20 - 26, 2010

Trip Duration 12 nights / 13 days

Difficulty Rating Easy/Moderate

Highlights Punakha was an ancient capital of Bhutan and it still one of the residences of our head Lama, the Je Kempo. The Dzong is one of the most important and stunning buildings in Bhutan. The walled fortress contains a number of important temples, sprawling courtyards. Situated at the auspicious confluence of two rivers, against a backdrop of gentle hills, Punakha Dzong is a spectacular venue for a festival. This tour allows you to see the festival opening and closing festival days, while in the interim traveling through some really beautiful parts of the country and visiting another very important Dzong, Trongsa.

Cost \$3000 per person in groups of 3 or more. (For FIT group surcharge \$40 for single pax and \$30 for 2 pax)
Includes ground transportation to and from Paro airport, transportation and entrance fees to all listed activities, entry fees, all meals, accommodations

- Itinerary**
- Day 1 Arrive at Paro Airport. You will be received by our guide at the Paro International Airport and escorted to your hotel for refreshment. Visit the National Museum of Bhutan and Paro Dzong. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 2 Paro. In the morning, hike to the Kila Goenpa nunnery for superb views in all directions - the Haa Valley, Taktshang Goenpa, the Paro valley. Lunch at hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel.
 - Day 3 Paro - Thimphu. Hike to Tiger's Nest, Taktshang Monastery. Lunch at Taktshang teahouse with its spectacular view of the famous monastery. Evening drive to Thimphu. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 4 Thimphu. Day excursion to the 13th century Phadoding Monastery. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 5 Thimphu. After breakfast, visit the National Library to see some unique and historic books. Our books are not hardbound in the typical manner. Next, the Traditional Painting School and then the Traditional Paper Factory. After lunch, souvenir shopping or more touring, as you wish. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 6 Thimphu - Punakha. After breakfast, drive to Punakha, the ancient capital of Bhutan Punakha via Dochu-la Pass (10,000 ft). On clear days there are excellent views of the Himalayas. Afternoon sightseeing of the Punakha and Wangdue valleys. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 7 Punakha. Full day at the opening of the Punakha Dromchoe festival; enjoy festivities in the main courtyard of the spectacular Punakha Dzong. Overnight in hotel.
 - Day 8 Punakha - Trongsa. Drive to Trongsa with a stop for lunch at Chendebji Chorten. In the afternoon, make an excursion to Kuenga Rabten, an ancestral home of the Royal Family. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 9 Trongsa. In the morning visit the Dzong. After lunch, free time to explore the town, to hike or enjoy the views from our hotel. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 10 Trongsa - Wangdue. After breakfast, we begin our return. Our destination will be Wangdue. This is a slightly shorter drive. Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 11 Wangdue - Punakha. In the morning we depart Wangdue to go back to the Punakha Dzong for the last day of the festival. This day includes some very unusual events. You have to be there! Overnight at hotel.
 - Day 12 Punakha - Paro. Drive back to Paro from Punakha. We will stop in Thimphu for lunch, before continuing to Paro. Farewell dinner and overnight at hotel in Paro.
 - Day 13 Paro. Early morning drive to Paro international airport after breakfast.

